

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 /028 W
-----192224Z 009959 /72R

R 190930Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2793

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5561

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OCLR TGEN IN
SUBJECT: PROBLEMS IN R/V ATLANTIS LOGISTIC SUPPORT

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 3454, (B) STATE 081583

1. REFTEL (A) OUTLINED POSSIBLE CLEARANCE PROCEDURE FOR RESEARCH TO BE CONDUCTED IN INDIAN WATERS. THE KEY ELEMENTS ARE LONG LEAD TIME, SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS, DETAILED PROPOSALS AND CRUISE TRACK, AND BIO DATA OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL (B):

A) THE LETTERS "US NAVY" WERE PAINTED IN BLACK IN THREE INCH HIGH LETTERS ON THE STERN OF THE R/V ATLANTIS II.

B) THERE WAS NO RPT NO NEWSPAPER REPORTING ON THE SHIP.

C) EMBASSY SENDING COMMANDER RYAN MEMO BY POUCH TO WILLIAM ERB, OES/OFA/MST.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGY OF ACTIONS AND PROBLEMS REGARDING R/V ATLANTIS: EMBASSY FACED SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH THE LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND CLEARANCE INVOLVED WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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R/V ATLANTIS WHICH CALLED AT INDIAN PORT (MORMUGAO HARBOR, GOA) BUT DID NO RESEARCH IN INDIAN WATERS. EMBASSY DID NOT KNOW THAT RESEARCH VESSEL ATLANTIS WAS NOT RPT NOT A PRIVATE SHIP. EMBASSY ONLY KNEW THAT RESEARCH WAS SPONSORED BY ONR AND NSF AND SO STATED IN THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE SUBMITTED TO THE GOI. IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REVEALED THROUGH PERSONAL OBSERVATION BY AN AMEMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE

(FSL) THAT THE SHIP HAD "US NAVY" PAINTED ACROSS ITS STERN IN BLACK THREE INCH HIGH LETTERS. SUCH INCIDENTS UNDERMINE OUR CREDIBILITY WITH INDIAN AUTHORITIES AND MUST BE AVOIDED IN THE FUTURE.

4. ALL PORT ARRANGEMENTS AND HANDLING HAD BEEN INITIALLY ARRANGED BY THE R/V ATLANTIS WITH CHOWGULE BROTHERS, MORMUGAO HARBOR, GOA, A COMMERCIAL AGENT. THE EMBASSY HAD ADVISED CHOWGULE BROTHERS THAT THE VESSEL WAS A COMMERCIAL RESEARCH VESSEL WHEN EMBASSY RECEIVED A CABLE QUERY FROM THE AGENT ASKING FOR DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR R/V ATLANTIS. CHOGULE BROTHERS WAS AWARE THAT THE R/V HAD US NAVY PAINTED ON ITS STERN, BUT DID NOT I INFORM THE EMBASSY. CHOWGULE BROTHERS, BY TELEGRAM, SIMPLY REQUESTED AMEMBASSY TO ADVISE THEM WHETHER OR NOT THE R/V REQUIRED DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE, AND IF SO, TO INITIATE APPROPRIATE ACTION. CHOWGULE BROTHERS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED ON 6 JAN 1977 THAT:

A. BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED AND GUIDANCE AVAILABLE AT EMBASSY, R/V ATLANTIS DID NOT REQUIRE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DIPLOMATIC) CLEARANCE FOR ENTRY INTO INDIAN PORTS.

B. A COURTESY NOTE OF INFORMATION HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO INDIAN NAVAL HEADQUARTERS ADVISING THEM OF R/V ATLANTIS' PORT SCHEDULE AND DESTINATION. FORTUNATELY, AN EXPERIENCED FSL HAD BEEN SENT TO BOMBAY AND GOA TO ASSIST WITH CARGO ON-LANDING PROBLEMS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS ABLE TO SIGN A LETTER OF BOND WHICH ALLOWED DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE TO BE GRANTED.

5. THE FSL PROCEEDED TO BOMBAY TO ARRANGE FOR FORWARD-ING ACID SUPPLIES THAT HAD ARRIVED IN BOMBAY FROM US AND WERE CONSIGNED TO R/V ATLANTIS. CHOWGULE BROTHERS COULD NOT FIND A TRUCKING FIRM WILLING TO CARRY IN BOND A "DANGEROUS CARGO" TO MORMUGOA HARBOR, GOA, AND REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FSL. HE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN LOCATING A TRUCKING FIRM, AND THE ACID WAS FORWARDED TO GOA FOR FINAL DELIVERY TO R/V ATLANTIS.

6. THE FSL WAS ADVISED BY THE MASTER OF R/V THAT THIRTY-EIGHT BOXES WERE TO BE OFF-LOADED FROM ATLANTIS AND SENT TO US. SOME OF THE BOXES WERE TOO BIG TO BE SENT VIA AIR TO BOMBAY. THE FSL ADVISED THE MASTER THAT ARRANGING AIR AND SURFACE SHIPMENT IN "CUSTOMS BONG" STATUS WOULD TAKE ABOUT THIRTY DAYS TO PROCESS AND CLEAR. FSL SUGGESTED THAT THE BOXES BE

OFF-LOADED AT THE NEXT PORT-OF-CALL WHICH WAS IDENTIFIED
AS KARACHI, AND THE CARGO WAS RETAINED ONBOARD R/V.

7. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY MUST BE ADVISED OF A VESSEL'S
REGISTRY STATUS, I.E., WHETHER THE OWNER IS COMMERCIAL,
DOD, ETC. TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE LOGISTIC SUPPORT, THE
AMEMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION MUST BE ADVISED SEVERAL
MONTHS IN ADVANCE REGARDING DETAILS PERTAINING TO THE
CARGO TO BE OFF-LOADED AND ON-LOADED. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS
THAT THE VESSEL'S MASTER AND PROJECT SPONSOR DEVELOP AN
OPERATIONS PLAN OUTLINING LOGISTICS SUPPORT REQUIRE-
MENTS IN VARIOUS PORTS TO BE VISITED. NO EMBASSY
SUPPORT HAD BEEN REQUESTED FOR THE R/V ATLANTIS. WHEN
COMMERCIAL AGENTS HAVE PROBLEMS, THE ABILITY OF THE
EMBASSY TO ASSIST IS SEVERELY LIMITED IF IT HAS NOT
RECEIVED SUFFICIENT NOTICE AND INFORMATION OF THE VISIT.
TDY FUNDS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO DEFRAY SUPPORT PROVIDED
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BY EMBASSY. END COMMENT.

8. EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICE APPRECIATES COPY OF 1977
OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIP OPERATIONS SCHEDULE WHICH WAS SENT
TO THE AMEMBASSY BY ERB. THIS WILL BE OF ASSISTANCE
TO US.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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